

## Environmental Sustainability Local Strategic Partnership Thematic Group

**Date:** 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2009  
**Time:** 9.30am – 11am  
**Venue:** Stanney Room, Backford Hall

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### Attending:

Cheshire West and Chester Council	<b>Alison Amesbury</b> , Housing Strategy & Enabling Manager <b>Alison Armstrong</b> , LSP Director <b>Peter Bulmer</b> , Climate Change Team Leader <b>Steve Kent</b> , Director of Environment <b>Ian Marshall</b> , Specialist Environmental Services Manager <b>Gill Rogerson</b> , Performance Manager <b>Alan Slater</b> , Head of Strategic Housing & Spatial Planning <b>Robbie Taylor</b> , Strategic Partnership Adviser
Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service	<b>John Salt</b> , (Vice Chair), CW&C Unitary Manager
Groundwork Cheshire	<b>Jane Staley</b> , (Chair), Executive Director

**Support Staff:** Elaine Grant, Partnership Assistant

### Visitors:

**Apologies:** Helen De Lemos, Waste Strategy Manager, Cheshire West and Chester Council, Jim Hughes, NHS Western Cheshire, Cllr. Neil Ritchie, Executive Member for Environment, Cheshire West and Chester Council

<b>Item No.1</b> <b><u>Welcome,</u></b> <b><u>Apologies &amp;</u></b> <b><u>Introductions</u></b>	Jane Staley (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting. The new Partnership was advised that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss and plan the way forward on delivery of the Environmental Sustainability Thematic Group's (ESTG) known LAA targets and other priorities.
<b>Item No. 2</b> <b><u>Initial</u></b> <b><u>Thoughts</u></b> <b><u>from</u></b> <b><u>the Chair</u></b>	The Chair introduced a paper outlining her "Initial Thoughts". The group was advised that there should be representation at the meeting from Housing, Highways, Waste and the Environment services of the Council and that Helen Bellairs (Health & Wellbeing Thematic Partnerships Chair) would like NHS Western Cheshire to

	<p>be represented at each ESTG meeting. The five responsibilities that the ESTG had been given by the Cheshire West and Chester Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) were discussed by the group with questions raised about the “Improving Road Safety” (Safer and Stronger Communities Group) and “Availability of Affordable and Appropriate Housing” (Business, Enterprise and Culture) LAA outcome responsibilities as they were understood to sit under one of the other four thematic partnerships. The group was advised by Alison Armstrong that any cross overs would be spotted when the delivery plans were produced, at this stage nothing had been finalised.</p> <p>The discussion focussed around the new partnership having a clear pragmatic approach to add value to the work of the LSP as a specialist thematic partnership. Some LAA outcomes may not benefit from the work and membership of the partnership, such as road maintenance and some housing indicators. For example, road maintenance performance is dependant on the level of funding input to service delivery and will be unaffected by any other factors and new-build housing will be delivered by the Cheshire Housing Alliance. Therefore the Partnership should concentrate on the outcomes that it can affect and influence as its priorities.</p> <p>Partners agreed that the new ESTG has an important role as advocates for reducing CO2 emissions and improved waste management and can lobby on behalf of the LSP. This further raised the question of the Group acting as advocates for the allocation of resources. Considerable specialist grants (Supporting People) are now channelled through the un-ringfenced Area Based Grant (ABG); that core services are dependant on and a re-direction of un-ringfenced funding could be a serious risk to successful LAA delivery.</p>
<p><b><u>Item No. 3</u></b> <b><u>Terms</u></b> <b><u>of Reference</u></b></p>	<p>The Chair referred to the “Terms of Reference” paper which had been circulated with the agenda and asked the Group for their comments on additional terms that could be added at this stage. Comments were made on identifying a new term for the Partnership to act as LSP advocates for “sustainability”. This could follow cross-cutting review of all LAA delivery plans to “proof” the work of the LSP in delivering the LAA.</p> <p>There were no further comments to be added at this point further than under administrative arrangements (Item 8): the Partnership Unit in the Chief Executive’s Department at the Council will provide this support to the Partnership</p>
<p><b><u>Item No.4</u></b> <b><u>Local Area</u></b> <b><u>Agreement</u></b> <b><u>(LAA)</u></b> <b><u>for Cheshire</u></b></p>	<p>The Group was advised that the LAA had now been approved by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and by the new Council, following the recent review and refresh process. The challenge now was to produce delivery plans for the current financial year 2009/10.</p>

<p><b><u>West and Chester – identify the areas of focus for the Group</u></b></p>	<p>The Group evaluated the LAA performance indicators which fall under its current remit and it was noted that there was an additional non-designated or local indicator to target upon. NI192 is included to supplement NI191 in the designated indicator category. Further discussion circled the accommodation of some of the set housing and housing related designated indicators under the remit of other Thematic Partnerships. This related to NI141 and NI 142 (Supporting People outcomes) within the Health and Wellbeing Partnership along with NI156 (temporary accommodation). The Group felt these indicators would be more at home under the supervision and coordination of the ESTG.</p>
<p><b>Action - Decision</b></p>	<p>It was agreed the Chair &amp; Vice Chair would raise this matter at the forthcoming meeting of the Thematic Partnership Leads meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> April.</p>
<p><b><u>Item No. 5 Sustainable Community Strategy and Vision 2050</u></b></p>	<p>The Group was asked to consider the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and how it could be influenced in light of the Vision 2050 document. The new Sustainable Community Strategy would be completed by the Autumn and implemented in April 2010. The Vision 2050 document would provide the starting point and there would also be a 12 week consultation period. The Group asked if there was an opportunity to get involved prior to the consultation and asked for a point of contact. There would be no problem in starting to pull together evidence and contextual information for the consultation process and forwarding it to the responsible officer. Andrea Mageean's ( andrea.mageean@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk) name was given as the contact officer as she was now responsible for the SCS in her role as Strategic Partnership Adviser. Andrea had also been involved in the Vision 2050 document.</p> <p>As part of the consultation exercise, it was noted that the local Development Framework consultation must be closely tracked and its findings included in the new SCS. The Group was informed that there would also be alerts in the coming months about the SCS and there would be a clearer review after the LSP meeting next week. A paper outlining a communication plan for the consultation will be presented to partners for approval and implementation.</p>
<p><b><u>Item No. 6 Area Partnership Boards – update on APB development and role of the group</u></b></p>	<p>Robbie Taylor reported that a paper had gone to the Governance Committee of the Council on the key purpose and roles of the new Community Forums (previously known as Local Area Forums). The report does contain a summary of the functions and linkages, as they currently stand, while further work is being undertaken to further develop the detail of their relationship to both Community Forums and Thematic Partnerships. It is likely that the Chair of each of the five Area Partnership Boards would be invited to sit on the LSP as a geographical community representative.</p> <p>It was important that the connection was made between the thematic</p>

	<p>groups and the Area Partnership Boards to avoid possible future duplication of work and research. Area Partnership Boards will have Area Action Plans that would also feed into the SCS, but should also be informed by the analysis and strategic planning of the Thematic Partnerships.</p> <p>The danger of duplication of work was an immediate concern for the group as was the need for clarity. It was considered a priority that this was managed correctly.</p> <p>Alison Armstrong explained that she had regular weekly meetings with Cathy Boyd, the Area &amp; Neighborhood Manager, responsible for the five Area Partnership Boards. There were also research and intelligence profiles for the five areas to determine their priorities and to support the direction of the new Action Plans</p>
<b>Action - Decision</b>	An electronic copy of the Governance Committee report to be circulated with the minutes of the meeting.
<b>Item No. 7</b> <b><u>Membership and Existing Partnerships</u></b>	The Chair advised that the membership and existing partnerships would be better defined at the next ESTG meeting as the way forward would be clearer when the delivery plans and national indicators were ultimately agreed to be owned by one of the lead organisations and thematic partnership.
<b>Item No. 8</b> <b><u>Performance Management</u></b>	<p>Alison Armstrong advised the Group that the inaugural meeting for the Cheshire West and Chester Local Strategic Partnership was due to take place on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009. The completion of robust delivery plans with each national indicator being given a thematic home would be discussed and hopefully finalised.</p> <p>The completion of the delivery plans was due at the end of May/beginning of June and will be confirmed when the final Performance Management Framework and Delivery Plan template has been approved and agreed by the LSP.</p>
<b>Action-Decision</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It would be useful to have a direct link to the LSP members.</li> <li>• There was some concern that there could be duplication of work by the other thematic groups. (Mapping exercise suggested).</li> <li>• Proxy indicators can be measured from the input from partners' e.g. Fire &amp; Rescue Service on their home visits and the numbers of homes receiving sustainability and energy-saving advice as an output.</li> <li>• There must be consistency in performance management.</li> </ul>
<b>9. Any Other Business</b>	No other issues were raised.

**Details of next meeting:** The next ESTG will take place after the delivery plans have been finalised in early June.

- It will be helpful to identify future dates to align with the planned quarterly LSP meetings, to ensure issues and news from the ESTG can be escalated to the LSP as and when it is appropriate.

- There will be monthly meetings of the new Partnership for the first three/four months to ensure the key business of the Group is undertaken and on track (e.g. on the LAA): then more specialised projects to support the Partnership's broader agenda and cross-cutting projects can be developed to add value as discussed earlier.

Signed (Chair): .....

Date: .....